

▼ FHSU Opera

'Dido and Aeneas' hits stage on Friday

Callie Schlegel
Staff Writer

Dido and Aeneas, one of the best-loved operas of the 17th century, will be performed by FHSU students this weekend in Felton/Start Theatre of Malloy Hall.

For opera lovers, *Dido and Aeneas*—composed by Henry Purcell—is a familiar classic, and for those newer to the opera scene it is a perfect way to become acquainted with opera.

Joseph Perniciaro, the show's stage director, said that he chose this opera because of its immediate accessibility to all types of audiences.

"*Dido and Aeneas* is a simple love story with wonderful heroes

and great villains," Perniciaro said. "All ages and audiences will enjoy this opera."

The story of *Dido and Aeneas* begins as Aeneas, a Trojan warrior who has been sent west by the gods to form a new empire, is shipwrecked off the coast of Carthage. He is escorted to Dido, the Queen of Carthage. Dido and Aeneas fall in love, and although Dido does not wish to get married, she agrees to marry Aeneas after her sister Belinda encourages her. The court of Carthage begins to celebrate their Queen's engagement.

Unbeknownst to the pair of lovers, an evil Sorceress, who abhors all forms of happiness and beauty, vows with her witch friends to

kill Dido and bring Carthage into ruin. Ultimately, the Sorceress is successful. She tricks Aeneas into leaving Carthage after sending an impostor Mercury, messenger to the gods, to order Aeneas' immediate departure. Aeneas only tells Dido of his plans to leave right before his ship is to sail. Dido is so overcome with grief when she realizes that Aeneas is leaving that she burns herself to death on a funeral pyre.

This tragic opera is only 1 hour and 15 minutes long, and it will be performed in English with no intermission. It features elaborate sets and sumptuous costumes designed exclusively for this production. Additionally, two separate casts will be perform-

ing on different nights with a full orchestra. One cast will perform both Friday night and Sunday afternoon, while the other cast will perform on Saturday evening. This is not only Perniciaro's first opera at Fort Hays, but also his directing debut for any full-length opera. He says the experience has been exhilarating.

"I wanted to do an opera that would showcase the talented students we have," said Perniciaro.

"I think Mr. Perniciaro has really brought a lot of great new ideas to this university when it comes to opera," said Alexis Korbe, a member of the opera cast. "The performance will make people want to come back next year for more."

"The scenes on stage are everything I had been imagining in my head—costuming, singing, and blocking have all come together in an amazing way. Everyone should come see it," said Perniciaro.

Dido and Aeneas will be performed in Malloy Hall's Felton/Start Theatre. Performances on Friday, January 27 and Saturday, January 28 will begin at 8 p.m., and the Sunday, January 29 matinee begins at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for general public, and \$5 for students and seniors. For more information, or to order/reserve tickets, call 785-628-5306. Tickets also may be purchased on a walk-in basis before the performance.

Forum debates science theories

James Bell
Staff Writer

The Evolution versus Intelligent Design argument was brought forth in a public forum this week, with the intent to "bring light, rather than heat" to the debate, according to moderator Paul Faber, dean of the college of arts and sciences.

On Monday, a forum called *Evolution and Intelligent Design: Schools, Politics and Participation* was held.

Faber opened the forum with a brief overview of the distinction between

the two sides.

The panel began with the presentation from Greg Farley, associate professor of biological sciences, who spoke about the use of evolution in public education in the context of science. Evolution is, "in practice, a law," he said. Faber called evolution the "cornerstone of biology."

Shala Mills, associate professor of political science, spoke about the constitutional aspects of teaching evolution in schools. The first amendment creates the establishment and the free exercise clause, which are

at cross purposes in arguments such as this, she explained.

The last panel member to present was Dick Heil, chair department of political science and justice studies, who spoke about the creation and political aspects of the Kansas Board of Education.

The panel seemed mindful of the powerful disagreements between the proponents of either side of the issue and very little contention was offered.

The forum will be available for viewing on the FHSU website.

Katrina Relief



Members of Tigers in Service pose on top of a pile of rubble in New Orleans. The group traveled to the hurricane-trodden area to help with relief efforts.

COURTESY PHOTO

Tracks

CONTINUED
FROM PAGE 1

course schedules. It will also allow them options to personalize the page for their specific wants and needs. Options will include color changes and content such as weather info. Students will have the ability to rearrange content on their homepage to suit their specific needs.

The new web portal is actually not the first time FHSU has looked at providing a web portal for students to use. In 2004 a web portal project was abandoned after nearly two years of preparation, Ruder explained.

The attempt was abandoned for several reasons. Basically, "the web response time wasn't responding in a way that was accept-

able," Ruder said.

The portal suffered from other problems and limitations, such as a lack of available features. Ruder indicated this was one reason they chose to create a custom portal rather than purchasing one.

Schmidt said that some funding for the project was also made available thanks to the Mellon Family Grant.

When designing the new portal, designers looked at the portals of other schools around Kansas to see what services and features were being provided. By taking the best features and seeing what is already working at other schools, Ruder hopes that they were able to create a web portal for FHSU that will best meet the needs of students.

Allocations

CONTINUED
FROM PAGE 1

on using the money for and what the organization does for the campus," Marshall said.

Presentations are ten minutes long with ten minutes for the committee to question the organization, Cure said.

Presentations are scheduled with the SGA office and will take place Feb. 5, 12, 19, and 25. The proposed budget is due March 5.

"Once we've heard all the requests, then the committee meets and we ration out all the money between all the organizations as we feel they are deserving of the money," Marshall said.

The proposed bill then goes through first and second readings to be voted on March 16 by the full senate, Marshall explained.

The committee includes senators chosen by the Senate: Sen. Drew Thomas, Sen. Barbara Winter, Sen. Doug Cure, Sen. Derek Osburn, Sen. Kasiah Rothchild, Sen. Eric Park and Sen. Cameron Davis, along with Vice President Marshall, Treasurer Lisa Tankersley, and various administrators.

Marshall and Tankersley are the only members of the executive staff allowed to be part of the committee.

Administrators on the committee are Herb Songer, vice president of student affairs, Diane Scott, vice president of student affairs, and Mike Barnett, vice president of administration and finance.

Questions are encouraged, Cure said, and can be directed to the SGA office in the Memorial Union.

The voice of integrity at Fort Hays State University

the edge

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▼ Web Portal

Hunting season... TigerTracks launches

Robert Cummins
Staff Writer

This week FHSU implemented the new TigerTracks program, the first in a series of steps to implement a new web portal environment for FHSU students.

Jackie Ruder, applications programmer analyst and portal administrator, explained that TigerTracks will allow students and faculty to gain access to multiple services simultaneously using a single login.

Services that will use a TigerTracks login include Scatcat, the Blackboard Learning System, Student Web Services, computer labs, and Tignernet, the new Wireless network spanning the FHSU campus.

The web portal will allow students the ability to access multiple services from a single location rather than different locations, as in the past, Ruder said. The single login feature would allow students to login and access all included services from the web portal with a single login, hopefully making them more available for students and easier to use, Ruder said.

TigerTracks is actually based on a free open source product that has been customized to meet the specific needs of Fort Hays' students, Ruder said.

Ruder indicates that by using free soft-

ware to create a custom portal for FHSU, costs will be kept to a minimum, both in terms of creation of the portal, and maintenance. It will also provide an easy method to add services and make changes to the portal to meet future demands.

David Schmidt, director of computing and telecommunications, explained that TigerTracks is to be implemented in several stages.

"The next big push is online registration and enrollment — truly real-time online registration and enrollment," Schmidt said. Next on the list will be online degree checks and the ability for a student to check course availability or to change their major from the portal.

Schmidt expects that in a year or two, the web portal should be available to instructors and staff, allowing simple methods to post information for students to see, contact students and post grades and other information. Schmidt expects this to expand the use of these services.

The web portal will provide users with a more customized experience, showing them the information that pertains to them, such as transcripts and

SEE 'TRACKS'
ON PAGE 8

Dido and Aeneas



TYLER MESSENGER/THE EDGE
Kyle Zecha sings to Sarah Glassman, seated, as Katie Steinert looks on during a rehearsal for the upcoming performances of the opera "Dido and Aeneas." See page 8 for story.

SGA to allocate funds

James Bell
Staff Writer

Once again, FHSU's Student Government Association (SGA) will be going through the allocations process, which provides funds to various student organizations across campus.

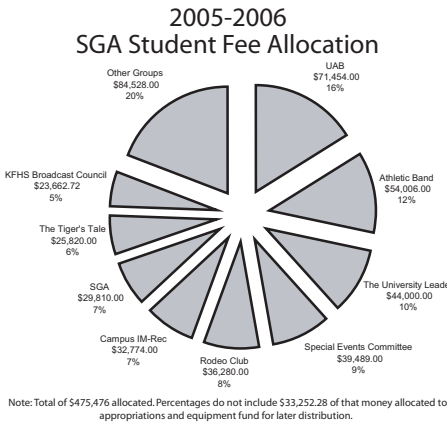
The total amount of funding this year will be approximately the same amount as last year, \$475,000, according to SGA Vice President Tavish Marshall.

This money is garnered from student fees.

Any student organization recognized by the Student Organizations Committee is eligible for allocation funds. Final requests are due in the SGA office by 4 p.m. on Jan. 27.

"If you miss the deadline, we can't fund you," said Sen. Doug Cure, chair of the allocations committee.

Some organizations receive large amounts of money to stay operational, but, "Ideally we like organizations to be self-sustaining," Cure said.



SGA has two options for funding organizations, allocations and appropriations. Allocations can be requested only once per year during a specific time frame, and an organization can request any amount it wishes.

Appropriations requests are limited to a total of \$1000, but can be asked for any time during the year, Cure said.

Allocations are often used to help fund the yearly budget for an organization, while appropriations are often given out for single events, like a group trip or other special activity.

The allocations process begins with organizations filing a request for funding with the SGA.

Meetings are then scheduled for each organization to meet with the committee, Marshall said. "They come in with a budget prepared and a presentation about the organization itself, what they plan

SEE 'ALLOCATIONS'
ON PAGE 8

EDITORIAL

▼ on the edge

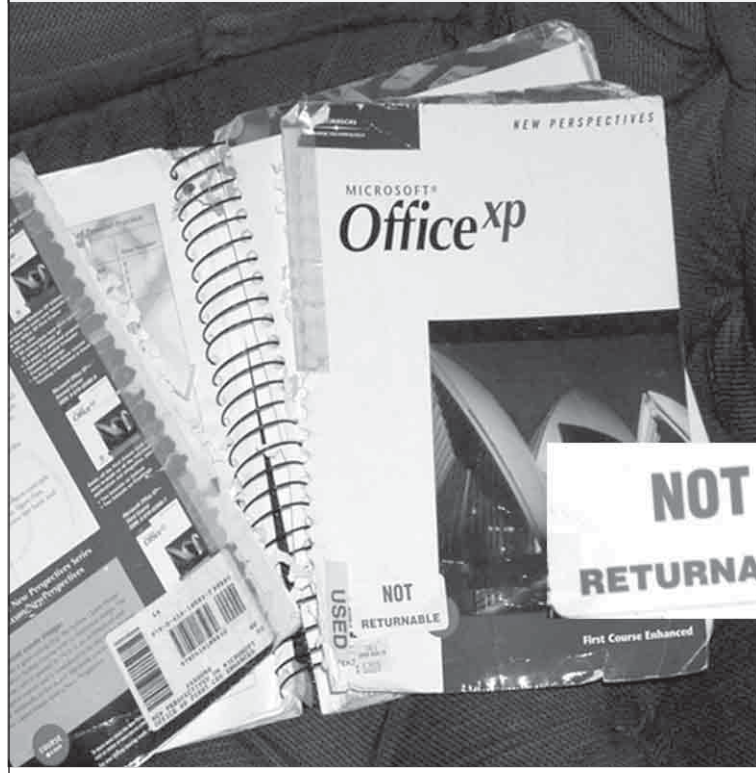
Renovations bring life back to Union

Memorial Union renovations are well underway. Now we have to find out if the age old saying is true: "If you build it, they will come." The student union is supposed to be at the center of student life, a hotbed of collegiate activity. However, for many years the FHSU Memorial Union has been anything but. The bowling alley sat unused and unstaffed. The Union served as merely a cafeteria for many students. A nice place to pass between classes, maybe a quiet place to study? Yes. A destination in and of itself? Most certainly not. But now, remodeling efforts and a fresh, energized union director by the name of Bill Smriga hope to bring the life back into the Memorial Union. If these efforts succeed, the results can be nothing but a boon for the college. A lively, energized student union will not only enrich the lives of current FHSU students, it will also most definitely help draw new students to this school. However, first students must give the new improved Union a chance. Soon it will be built. Now it is up to the students to embrace it and make it their own.

-The Editorial Board

The Edge of Reason

By Zach Becker



Does something seem wrong with this picture???

E-vals prompt fear



Damien Leeson
Staff Writer

So, I got to work the other night at 7. I wasn't supposed to work, mind you. Tuesdays are my days off. But one of my Semolino co-workers, a supervisor, needed the evening off to prepare EMPLOYEE EVALUATIONS with one of the bosses. E-VALS?!

I was shocked, confused, and mildly frustrated. One, I didn't realize that java bars needed to scrutinize and critique their employees. And two, this was the first I'd heard anything of it. I mean, in the real world, aren't they suppose to forewarn people of these matters? At least give me a week to do some ass-kissin' hard work. But no. Night before. I'm not too concerned. As most of you reading this know, I am completely awesome and do everything I do well. Not to mention I'm devilishly good looking and quite charming, witty, fashionable, talented, intelligent, wise, etcetera. However, I know full well that I, despite my obvious pluses, am not perfect and there are, surely, some areas that need improvement. Though, it would be nice to get a raise. Turns out that I have an entire month to do some "ass kickin' hard work." This first meeting was merely a "lets lay down some new rules and make changes so that we can evaluate you in a month" sort of meeting. There will also be raise reviews in a month - yes! And possibly promotions. Ironically, demotion makes people want to quit. Who'd have think it?

the edge

Mission: *The Edge* newspaper staff strives to act as a voice of integrity on the campus of Fort Hays State University. *The Edge* endeavors to comprehensively cover important events and issues on campus and to approach every article with honesty, accuracy, integrity, fairness and public service in mind.

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UAB AND THE MEMORIAL UNION PRESENT:

COLLEGE BOWL

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4TH IN THE MEMORIAL UNION

College Bowl is a vigorous jeopardy-type game held against teams of students. Questions consist of knowledge in all sorts of academic, sports, and cultural areas, but can be answered among a variety of players per team. It is a contest played at college campuses across the country. The best players on each campus move on to play in regional and national tournaments to represent their school.

FHSU will be having teams of 4 players open to all students, moderated and judged by FHSU faculty, staff and UAB members. To play, each team must register and a member of each team (captain) must come to the captain meeting on Thursday, February 2nd at 3 p.m. in the Stouffer Lounge. At the meeting, information will be discussed on game times, prizes, regional tournament, and any questions you might have.

Each team must submit \$5 at the captain's meeting in order to play. This will cover the cost of refreshments and prizes for the winning team.

CAPTAIN'S MEETING - THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2
COMPETITION - SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4
REGISTRATION DEADLINE - TUESDAY, JANUARY 31
SIGN UP IN UNION - THIS THURSDAY & FRIDAY, 11 a.m. -1 p.m.

TEAM NAME: _____

*TEAM MEMBERS: _____ CAPTAIN

*IF GRADUATE STUDENT, _____

PLEASE INDICATE _____

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CAPTAIN'S EMAIL: _____

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For more information, contact UAB @ 628-5355 or Bronson Michaud at sihingb@hotmail.com

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Roommate Wanted: 4 bedroom, 2 bath house. \$325/month + 1/4 of electric. Call 316-619-9308	Events
Roommates Wanted: 2 male/female. Looking for 2 people to take over remainder of lease. Lease is up in April. 3 bedroom house, fenced backyard, attached garage, pets allowed, central air/heat, washer/dryer hook-ups. Available now. Call 785-243-0617 or 785-650-9435.	Spring Internship Fair 2006 Memorial Union Ballroom. All majors. Wednesday, Feb. 8th 2:00pm-6:00pm.
Nice, Clean, 3 bdrm duplex, \$550. 785-625-9588.	KFHS News Tryouts will be held in Heather Hall, Jan. 26 at 4:30pm.
Studio Apartment all bills paid, \$295/mo. 785-623-0193.	Cross Road Pregnancy Care Center Banquet Feb. 10th at the FHSU Memorial Union Ballroom. Call for more information 785-625-0985
	Help Wanted
	Cashier/Clerk position. Apply in person 1-70 Valero, Hays.
	In store health demos, \$9/hr. (weekends), sales exp. a plus. 1-866-605-6873.

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Email: edgenewspaper@gmail.com

Subject: "Classifieds"

Limit entries to 25 words.

Next issue: Feb. 9

The Edge reserves the right to edit or refuse any classified advertising.



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Construction on Union progresses

James Bell
Staff Writer

Construction is progressing nicely at the Memorial Union, moving it one step closer to becoming the proverbial center of campus life.

Work on the Union began Nov. 24 and "they are making great progress... it's actually ahead of schedule because of the good weather," said Bill Smriga, director of the Memorial Union.

The renovation is currently focusing on the basement level and the northwest addition to the facility, Smriga said.

Most noticeably, "you can see a large hole outside of sunset lounge where they have poured the footings, and now they are pouring the columns which will go to support the structure of the new atrium addition," Smriga said. They have also, "cut an opening into the north end of the

building so they can get a little bulldozer in and out to make it easier to haul the debris."

Work inside the Union is progressing as well, according to Smriga.

"They are about to pour concrete to bring the various floor levels to their appropriate final level so they have been filling in spaces with giant blocks of Styrofoam," he said.

While the construction progresses, other issues have required attention as well.

"We have had a tiny percentage of asbestos in our ceilings, but because of standards even that tiny percentage called for the entire ceiling to be abated and the asbestos to be removed," Smriga said. "That has happened in a number of areas in the building, most noticeably on the first floor seating area and hallway where the entire ceiling has been removed and we



ZACH BECKER/THE EDGE

Due to Memorial Union construction, the entrance of the union had to be moved out to the street.

have installed temporary lighting in its place."

Furniture selection has begun in the past week. "We have just started in earnest to select new furniture for the building the tables and chairs that will go in the dining area the lounge furniture

and office furniture," he said.

Students as well as faculty are helping to decide the look of the Union.

"A lot of students will be helping us with the furniture selection," Smriga said. "We would like to get a lot of student input in

terms of their ideas and actually sitting in and giving us feedback on furniture samples we will be getting in."

Smriga said that a campus wide e-mail will be sent out to students asking for feedback about the new furniture beginning some time in February.

Phase one of the renovation is scheduled to be finished in August of this year. Those areas include both the Cody Commons and the Center for Student Involvement.

"By August of this year we will have to have the furnishings purchased and delivered so that by august we can place them in the rooms as they are complete," Smriga said. Those areas will then be open for student use.

"Everything should be done by May 2007, (but) our contractor is optimistic that all will be finished even sooner than that," Smriga said.

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The Bi-Weekly

10
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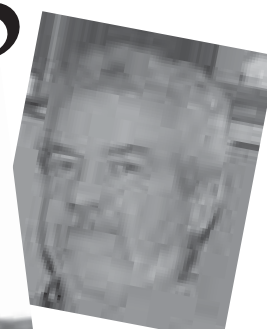
#7

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